REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

ROYAL BURGH OF ROTHESAY,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1906.

To the Local Government Board and to the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the Royal Burgh of Rothesay.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to submit my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1906. The Report is arranged under the following heads in accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board :—

(*a*) General account of influences and conditions injurious or dangerous to the health of the burgh, and of the measures that in his opinion should be adopted for its improvement.

(*b*) Statement of the general inquiries he has made during the year, and of any special inquiries as to sanitary matters

(*c*) General statement of any matters as to which he has given advice and granted certificates, including any action as to offensive trades.

(*d*) Specific acconnt of the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in workshops and workplaces, in terms of Section 132 of that Act, together with a tabular statement in the form issued by the Home Office.

(*e*) Account of the house accommodation of the labouring classes in the burgh, and of any proceedings under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, or otherwise.

(*f*) Account of any action taken under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act.

(*g*) Account of any proceedings under the Burgh Police Act, including a substance of his half-yearly Reports on slaughter-houses (section 280.)

(*h*) Account of the hospital accommodation available for persons suffering from Infectious disease (including the means provided for the conveyance of such persons), and of the houses of reception, with observations on the furnishing, maintenance, administration, and adequacy of such accommodation, &c.

(*i*) Account of the premises with necessary apparatus and attendance available for the destruction or disinfection of infected articles (including the means for the conveyance of such articles), also of the processes of disinfection in use, with observations on the adequacy of such arrangements and processes.

(*j*) An account of the action taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of infectious disease.

(*k*) A statement as to the causes, origin, and distribution of diseases within the burgh, and the extent to which the same have depended on or been influenced by conditions capable of removal or mitigation.

(*l*) A tabular statement, in such form as the Local Government Board may from time to time direct, of the sickness and mortality within the burgh.

Your obedient Servant,

ANDREW J. HALL,

Medical Officer of Health

ROTHESAY, *March, 1907.*

REPORT.

(a)—A General Account of Influences and Conditions Injurious or Dangerous to the Health of the Burgh, and of the Measures that, in his opinion, should be adopted for its improvement.

In last year's Report it was stated that there was an inadequate supply of water in the upper flats of a few of the more recently erected tenements in the town. This was not due to any scarcity of water in the loch, but to an excessive demand which was made on the conducting mains during a portion of the summer season. A new 12-inch main, which the Town Council have laid down, has put an end to any complaint on this head. This new main brings the Loch Ascog Water direct into the town with undiminished pressure, and it easily reaches the highest houses within its legitimate area.

The cleansing of the town is, perhaps, as well done as the system in vogue will permit. However, the comparative proximity to the town of the depot where the town "fulzie" is laid down renders the present method of disposal somewhat unsatisfactory. Even when the depot is well kept, the general unsightliness of the place, the odours given off by the decomposing organic substances, and the shelter afforded to a very large colony of rats combine to make its continued existence both undesirable and dangerous Is it not time to renew consideration of the question whether a suitable destructor would not be a more efficient and economical means of getting rid of the contents of our dust-bins? A modern destructor can be worked with practically no offence to the special senses, and the original outlay might be met by the reduced current expenditure.

(b)—A Statement of General Inquiries he has made during the year, and of any Special Inquiries as to Sanitary Matters.

Under the several headings reference is made to the inspection of and inquiries concerning workshops (including bakehouses), slaughter-house, hospital accommodation.

(c)—A General Statement of any matters as to which he has given advice or granted Certificates, including any action as to Offensive Trades.

Each month a report is made to the Town Council, and in these reports advice is given on sanitary matters. Certificates have been granted in connection with school attendance, house disinfection, existence of nuisance, &c.

(d)—A specific account of the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in Workshops and Workplaces, in terms of Sect. 132 of that Act, together with a Tabular Statement in the form issued by the Home Office.

The Register of Workshops, &c., at the end of the year contained 7 Factories, and 59 Workshops and Workplaces. The additions made to the list during the year were duly measured and examined as to their air space, ventilation, light, water supply, drainage, and sanitary accommodation.

Inspections have been made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself to the number of 47. Several cases of deficient sanitary accommodation were found and these are either remedied or are being dealt with.

A memorandum from the Home Office was received in October pointing out the urgent need for the more thorough administration of the Sections of the Act which refer to Outworkers. The chief reasons why this is urged are :- -(1st) Because Outworkers are apt to be the least protected class of workers ; and (2nd) To ensure that work shall not be done midst insanitary surroundings. By Section 107 of the Act, employers

should send to the Local Authority lists of the names of all Homeworkers whom they employ. As no such list had ever been received since the passing of the Act, and as we believe that ignorance of the law on the part of the employers was a possible cause of the non-appearance of these lists of Outworkers, we addressed a circular to some sixty of the employers who were most likely to have work done in employes' homes, pointing out their responsibility in the matter. As a result of this we have received 4 lists with 4 workers in all. The houses of these workers have been inspected, and the conditions in each case were found to be satisfactory.

The tabular statement on the Home Office form is sent separately.

As in former years, we examined for carbonic acid impurity the air in several Factories and Workshops. In two cases there were 9 and 13 parts of carbonic acid respectively in 10,000 parts of air. In the other four cases examined the air was pure, having only 1 or 5 parts carbonic acid in 10,000 parts of air.

(e)—An account of the house accommodation of the labouring classes in the Burgh, and of any proceedings under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts or otherwise.

Houses suitable for the working classes are more numerous and more satisfactory than they were a few years ago. No proceedings have been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts.

(f)—An account of any action taken under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.

No proceedings have been taken under these Acts.

(g)—An account of any proceedings under the Burgh Police Act, including the substance of his half-yearly reports on Slaughter-Houses (Section 280).

No proceedings have been taken under the Burgh Police Act.

The working of the Slaughter House continues to be satisfactory. There has not been so much tuberculous meat as there was during the years immediately preceding this.

(h)—An account of the Hospital Accommodation available for persons suffering from Infectious Disease (including the means provided for the conveyance of such persons), and of the Houses of Reception, with observations on the Furnishing, Maintenance, Administration, and Adequacy of such accommodation.

A full description of the Robertson-Stewart Hospital, the Ambulance brougham, etc., is given in the report for the year 1904, and may stand for this year.

ROBERTSON STEWART HOSPITAL.

	Burgh.	County.	Total.	Deaths.
Diphtheria, - - -	2	4	6	3
Scarlet Fever, - -	21	5	26	0
Enteric Fever, - -	5	0	5	0
Measles, - - -	2	1	3	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis,	1	0	1	0
Meningitis, - - -	1	0	1	1
For Observation, - -	1	0	1	0
* Enteric Fever, - -	1	0	1	0
	34	10	44	4

* Part of the time treated at home.

The above tabular statement shows the work done at the Hospital. The three deaths from Diphtheria were all County cases. Besides the cases indicated above, there were a number of out-door cases.

(i)—An account of the Premises with necessary Apparatus and Attendance available for the Destruction or Disinfection of infected articles (including the means for the conveyance of such articles), also of other processes of disinfection in use, with observations on the adequacy of such arrangements and processes.

These have been described in previous reports. The New Steam Disinfector has given every satisfaction.

(j)—An account of the action taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of infectious disease.

The administrative control of Phthisis is somewhat more of a reality than in former years. The Medical Practitioners have been invited to notify cases and to indicate in each case whether they themselves will undertake to exercise Public Health supervision, or prefer that we do so. While *every* case is not notified under the voluntary arrangement, we believe that we get knowledge of the majority of the more dangerous cases. A register of the cases is kept, and where the medical practitioner has not undertaken supervision we endeavour to do so by periodic visitation and by supplying spittoons, disinfectants, &c., to the patients. By this arrangement the risk of patients infecting others is, no doubt, lessened. At the same time there have been some cases during the year, whose treatment, from a Public Health point of view, would have been much more satisfactorily carried out in an Hospital.

The arrangement whereby the Local Authority bears the cost of bacteriological examinations in certain cases of Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, and Phthisis still exists.

Towards the prevention of Infantile Mortality the circular of the late Dr. J. B. Russell, sent out by the Local Government Board, was printed (*mutatis mutandis*) in the form of a leaflet and copies supplied to the Registrar and the Maternity Nurse for distribution to the parents of each child at birth.

(k)—A statement as to the causes, origin, and distribution of diseases within the burgh and the extent to which the same have depended on or been influenced by conditions capable of removal or mitigation.

In January there was a mild case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis which, fortunately, recovered.

In March two cases of Scarlet Fever in separate houses were found to be using milk from a farm from which other two cases of Scarlet Fever outside the Burgh were also being supplied. A visit to the farm elicited the information that a girl engaged in milking there had suffered from sore throat a week before the occurrence of the cases. When we visited the farm the girl had already ceased milking but considered herself recovered. The same night, however, the girl was taken to the Reception Ward at the Hospital for observation. Though no rash was ever seen either before or after her removal, a slight but quite perceptible desquamation took place, and there is no reasonable doubt that the girl's illness was the cause of the four cases of Scarlet Fever. The place was disinfected, and as there was no reason to expect other cases from this source, the distribution of the milk was not interfered with. Fortunately, all the cases were slight. The chief lesson to be learnt from this is that the very first indication of a sore throat in the case of anyone at a dairy farm should be sufficient to cause the patient to be dissociated from the milking, and to at once receive medical attention.

(l)—A tabular statement in such form as the Local Government Board may from time to time direct, of the Sickness or Mortality within the Burgh.

This appears on pages 14 and 15. From this table it is seen that the mortality from all causes was 13·9 per 1000; the Infantile mortality 112·19; and the birth-rate 21·3 per 1000.

Statistics.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

TABULAR STATEMENT for the Year ending 31st December, 1906.

TABLE I.

DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES.			CASES TREATED PRIVATELY.			CASES TREATED IN HOSPITAL.		
	Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Percentage of Deaths to Notifications.	Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Percentage of Deaths to Notifications.	Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Percentage of Deaths to Notifications.
Smallpox, ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	6	..	..	4	..	..	2	..	..
Membranous Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	8	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever..	27	2	7·4	6	2	33·3	21	..	..
Typhus Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhoid or Enteric Fever ..	6	..	..	1	..	..	5	..	..
Relapsing Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total.. ..	47	2	4·25	19	2	10·52	28	..	..

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

Tabular Statement for the Year ending 31st December, 1902.

TABLE II.

NUMBER OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS' CERTIFICATES.	£	s.	d.
44 cases in Private Practice @ 2/6	5	10	0
3 cases in Public Institutions @ 1/-	0	3	0
47 cases. Total Cost in Fees	5	13	0

3. Number of Notifications by Head of Family, Occupier, &c. 0

4. Number of cases omitted either by Medical Practitioners or Heads of Families, &c..... 0

5. Number of Prosecutions, in terms of section 3 (2), consequent on such omissions, ... 0

6. Number of Convictions consequent on such Prosecutions..... 0

TABLE I.—BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO THE BURGH DURING THE YEAR 1906.

Where occurring.	Population. Census, 1901.	Population. Estimated to middle of 1906.	Acreage.	Registered Births.	Mortality at subjoined ages. At all ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 60.	60 and upwards.	Mortality from subjoined causes. Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Other or Doubtful Fevers.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa.	Tubercular Diseases. Phthisis.	Tubercular Diseases. Other than Phthisis.	Septic Diseases.	Pneumonia.	Diseases of Respiratory System.	Influenza.	Cancer, Malignant Diseases.	Diseases of Nervous System.	Diseases of Circulatory System.	Violence.	All other Certified Causes.	Uncertified Causes.	Under or over Five Years of Age.
Deaths registered in the Burgh ..	9378	9560	2555 6	205	147	25	8	5	8	33	68	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	4	..	4	1	..	..	2	..	2	14	..	Under 5.
												..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	8	4	..	1	12	..	17	2	31	4	32	..	5 and upwards.
Plus deaths occurring in Public Institutions and elsewhere beyond the Burgh		54			8					4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	Under 5.
												..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 and upwards
Total					155	25	8	5	8	37	72	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	4	..	4	1	..	..	2	..	2	14	..	Under 5.
												..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	10	4	..	1	15	..	19	2	31	4	33	..	5 and upwards.
Less deaths transferred to other Districts or Burghs					21	2	2	3		9	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	Under 5.
												..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	..	4	..	5	..	5 and upwards
Net Total for the Burgh		9614		205	134	23	6	2	8	28	67	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	4	..	4	1	..	..	2	..	2	12	..	Under 5.
												..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	4	..	1	13	..	16	2	27	4	28	..	5 and upwards.

TABLE II.—DENSITY OF POPULATION, BIRTH RATE, INFANTILE, AND OTHER DEATH RATES.

BURGH.	Persons to the Acre.	Birth Rate.	Deaths under 1 Year per 1000 Births.	DEATH RATES PER THOUSAND FROM																	
				All Causes.	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric and other or Doubtful Fevers	Measles.	Whooping-Cough.	Diarrhœa.	Tubercular Diseases.		Septic Diseases.	Pneumonia.	Diseases of Respiratory System	Influenza.	Cancer, Malignant Diseases	Diseases of Nervous System.	Diseases of Circulatory System.
													Phthisis.	Other than Phthisis.							
Total for Burgh	3·762	21·3231	112·1951	13·9380	..	..	·2080	..	..	..	..	·1040	1·1441	·8321	..	·5200	1·4562	..	1·6642	·4160	3·8084

TABLE III.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER DURING THE YEAR 1906.

BURGH.	Smallpox.	Cholera.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.
Total for Burgh, ...	..	..	6	8	27	..	6	..	..	..	5	..
Cases Treated in Hospital,	..	..	2	..	21	..	5	..	..	..	2	..
Percentage of Cases Do , ..	..	..	33·3	..	77·7	..	83·3	..	..	..	40	..